

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (Claims 1-54 and 94) with traverse. The Examiner required restriction between Claims 1-54 and 94 (Group I), drawn to ink jet printable heat transfer materials, classified in class 428, subclass 195, and Claims 55-93 and 95-98 (Group II), drawn to compositions for making the different layers of the ink jet printable heat transfer materials, classified in class 524, subclass 1+.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the species of cold release/wash/ink receptive layers (Species A). Claims 1 and 13-54 specifically read on that species.

The Examiner stated that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Even though the claims of Groups I and II are classified in different art areas, Applicants respectfully suggest that the Examiner will not be required to make an additional search in considering the inventions described in the restricted claims. MPEP §803, in relevant part, states that:

“[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner >must<** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.**”

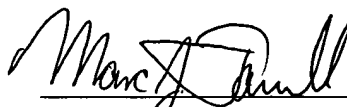
To conserve the time of both the Office and the Applicants herein, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction Requirement.

Applicants kindly request examination of the elected embodiment and reserve the right to file during the pendency of the present application one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected and/or canceled embodiments.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be beneficial to advance prosecution of the application to early issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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